

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Kenji ASAKURA et al.

Serial No : Not Yet Assigned (National Stage of PCT/JP2003/016430)

I.A. Filed : December 22, 2003

For : IMAGE HEATING APPARATUS AND IMAGE  
FORMING APPARATUS

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner of Patents  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop \_\_\_\_\_  
Randolph Building  
401 Dulany Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

Prior to the examination of the above-identified patent application on  
the merits, the Examiner is respectfully requested to amend the claims as  
follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins  
on page 2 of this paper.